



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

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**FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON
FOR ATTEMPTED DRUG SMUGGLING**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Rafael Velazquez, a former Border Patrol agent, was sentenced to 70 months in prison on a federal drug charge.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Kathleen Cardone ordered that Velazquez be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

On March 7, 2005, Velazquez pled guilty to attempting to possess 10 kilograms or more of cocaine. In pleading guilty, Velazquez admitted that in December 2004, he agreed to smuggle 10 kilograms of cocaine through the Border Patrol Checkpoint located on Highway 62-180 in exchange for \$8,000. On December 14, 2004, the defendant took possession of a black bag containing what he believed to be was cocaine and accepted \$4,000 cash from an undercover agent. The defendant then proceeded through the checkpoint and drove to a rest area east of the checkpoint where he delivered the bag to another undercover agent and received the balance owed of \$4,000.

This case was investigated by agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General together with investigators from the Texas Department of Public Safety. Assistant United States Attorney Kristal Wade prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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